THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Efforts are being made with the concerned department in the Government for larger allocation of funds for agriculturl research. The reply is awaited from the concerned Department.

Review of Milk Policy

635. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abut 5 per cent milk consumers face health hazards due to the bad quality of milk supplied;

(b) if so, whether this is due to policy failure or is attributable to other reasons of milk distribution, management techniques;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average yield of milk is below 1000 litres per animal per annum even after the white revolution; and

(d) whether country's milk policy needs a review so that the above shortcomings are adequately tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not received any such report.

(c) No, Sir. The average annual yield of a milch animal (in milk) has increased from about 858 litres per annum in 1985-86 to 1291 litres per annum in 1998-99.

(d) In view of answer (a) to (c) above, question does not arise.

Drought measures in A.P.

636. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks which have been affected by severe drought in Andhra Pradesh during the current calender year, with district-wise details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to make available food, drinking water and fodder in these areas by the Central Government and the State Government; and

(c) the details of other measures initiated by Government to combat the situation in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that 142 mandals in 7 districts have been declared as drought affected by the State Government in March, 2001.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary measure in the wake of natural calamities. During 2001-2002, Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 77.99 crore has been released to the State for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The State Government has reportedly spent Rs. 8.38 crore for creating wage employment and released Rs. 25.00 crore for providing drinking water. The other steps taken to combat the situation include preparation of district/mandal level contingency plans, crops strategies and bringing to the notice of the farmers the contingency plans and alternate crops to be taken up, through meetings, distribution of pamphlets etc.

Drought in States

637. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many parts of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc. were affected by severe drought conditions during the current calendar year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the losses suffered by each State in terms of human lives, livestock, crops, revenue, etc.;

(d) whether any starvation death took place in drought-hit areas; if so, the details thereof;

(e) the Central assistance provided to each State; and

(f) whether special package is in the offing for these States; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Parts of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orrissa and Rajasthan were facing drought like situation. One